



Assessment Notes...

From the Standards and Assessment Division

October 25, 2002

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

2003 STAR Update

Although much of the following information was distributed previously to districts and county offices of education, it is being repeated due to the number of telephone inquiries from the field concerning these topics.

Three STAR Program Components Continue

- **The California Standards Tests (CSTs) based on the state's academic content standards.** In spring 2003, CSTs will make up more than 50 percent of the questions for the elementary grades and approximately 66 percent of the questions for grades 10 and 11. Fourth and seventh graders will continue to take a writing assessment as part of the CST.
- **A national norm-referenced test in English.** The California Achievement Test, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6) is replacing the Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition (Stanford 9).
- **A norm-referenced test in Spanish.** The Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition (SABE/2) again will be used for Spanish-speaking English learners.

All Students Required to Take STAR Tests in English

- All students in grades 2 through 11 are required to take the CSTs and the CAT/6.

- Spanish-speaking English learners enrolled in California public schools fewer than 12 months are required to take the SABE/2 **in addition to** the CSTs and the CAT/6. Districts have the option of giving the SABE/2 to Spanish-speaking English learners who have been enrolled for more than 12 months.

Testing Time Changes

The writing component of the California English-Language Arts California Standards Tests in grades 4 and 7 will be untimed with a recommendation that schools schedule 75 minutes for this component. Students should be reminded that their scores will be based only on what is written on the lined pages in the Writing Prompt and Response booklet. Any additional sheets of paper will be removed from the test booklets and discarded.

2003 California Standards Tests (CST)

While national norm-referenced tests measure a student's achievement in comparison to a national sample of students tested in the same grade at the same time in the school year, CSTs assess students' knowledge of the state's academic content standards. Students' scores on the CSTs are compared to cut scores that are used to assign performance levels. The scores are not compared to the scores of other students. The state goal is to have every student score at proficient or above in every subject for which there is a CST.

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The 2003 CST in English-Language Arts for grades 2 through 11 and the CST in mathematics for grades 2 through 7 will not be augmented with questions from the CAT/6. The CSTs for these content areas and grades will have more state-developed questions than previously included:

- Grade 2 and 3 English-language arts 65 questions
- Grade 4 through 11 English-language arts 75 questions
- Grade 2 through 7 mathematics 65 questions

Changes for California Standards Tests in Science

In 2003, all fifth graders will take a standards-based field test in science. Twenty field test items will be included in the fifth grade test booklets. Individual results for the field test will not be reported. The 2004 California Standards Science Test in grade 5 will be a 60-question operational test that will produce student, school, district, county, and state scores. Forty percent of this test will assess the state science standards for grade 4, and 60 percent of the test will assess the science standards for grade 5. Like the high school science tests, about 10 percent of the questions will assess investigation and experimentation content standards.

The integrated science tests for high school are changing to a series of four tests: Integrated Science 1, Integrated Science 2, Integrated Science 3, and Integrated Science 4. All four tests will include earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics. These tests will be administered for the first time in spring 2003. Changes to the tests are based on recommendations of the CDE, the California Science Teachers Association, and the Integrated Science Panel. These changes, part of the updated CST blueprints for science, were approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) at its October 2002 meeting. The SBE also approved the recommendation that asterisked academic science content standards not be tested on any of the California Standards Tests in Science.

Changes for History-Social Science Tests

Grade 8 students will take a California History-Social Science Standards Test in 2003. The 75-question test will assess the academic content standards for grades 6, 7, and 8. This will be an operational test, and student, school, district, county, and state scores will be reported. The questions that will be used on this test do not require field-testing because they were previously developed for the ninth-grade test.

The CST in History-Social Science for grade 9 is being eliminated because there is no required standards-based history-social science course in grade 9. The norm-referenced social studies test for grades 9 through 11 also will be eliminated in 2003. CSTs in World History in grade 10 and U.S. History in grade 11 will continue in 2003.

Modified and New CST Blueprints Posted

The SBE approved modified CST blueprint that reflect changes in the number of questions for English-language arts and the move to stand-alone math tests for grades 2 through 7.

The SBE reaffirmed its commitment to have all appropriate standards tested by the CSTs. The tests will be developed so that essential standards will be tested every year. All other standards that can be assessed with the multiple-choice format will be tested on a rotational basis.

Key Standards Identified for Math

The new blueprints include indicators for the key standards that are identified in the *Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools*. Approximately 70 percent of the CST questions in mathematics will be based on the key standards.

New Blueprints Available

The SBE adopted blueprints for science in grade 5, history-social science in grade 8, and integrated science 1, 2, 3, and 4 tests.

Blueprints Show Some Academic Standards Not Tested

The new and modified blueprints now indicate standards that cannot be assessed with on-demand multiple-choice tests.

All approved blueprints are posted at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star/resources/blueprints.html on the Internet.

Field Test Questions Will Be Included in All CSTs

Beginning in spring 2003, the CSTs will include embedded CST field test questions being tried out for future tests. Every 2003 CST, except for the writing test components in grades 4 and 7, will include six field test items. The six items are included in the total number of items and time on the 2003 Item and Time Chart posted on the STAR Web site.

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California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) Added to STAR Program

Beginning in spring 2003, students with severe disabilities who are unable to participate in the STAR Program multiple-choice tests, even with accommodations or modifications, will be tested with California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA). CAPA is individually administered and is not a multiple-choice test. The assessment will be administered between March 17 and April 25, 2003. District STAR coordinators will be responsible for ordering CAPA materials, receiving the materials from the contractor, distributing school packages, and returning all CAPA materials to the contractor. District STAR coordinators need to work closely with special education staff in their districts and their regional SELPAs to identify students who should be assessed with the CAPA. During this first administration year, information about the assessment, ordering materials, etc., will be distributed to district STAR coordinators and special education staff.

An IEP team may not exempt students from participation in the STAR Program. IEP teams may specify only how students will participate in the Program. The Special Education Division has estimated that 60 to 70 percent of students with disabilities will take the California Standards Tests and the CAT/6 with no accommodations, 25 to 30 percent of the students with disabilities who receive significant instructional accommodation will take the test with accommodations, and 10 to 20 percent of the students with disabilities will be assessed with the CAPA.

Test Booklet or Answer Document Required for Every Student

As in 2002, schools will be required to **complete and submit with scorable materials** the demographic pages on a test booklet (grades 2 and 3) or answer document (grades 4 through 11) for every student enrolled on the first day of multiple-choice testing.

A Writing Prompt and Response booklet for grade 4 or 7 will be required for every student administered the writing component and for all students exempted from this component by parent request.

Additions and Changes in STAR Demographic Coding

- California Student Identification System (CSIS) districts are to code each student's CSIS ID Number.
- Racial Ethnic designations will be based on CSIS coding and will no longer include coding for the generic Asian or Pacific Islander categories.

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| • African American or Black (not of Hispanic origin) | 600 |
| • American Indian or Alaska Native | 100 |
| • Filipino | 400 |
| • Hispanic or Latino | 500 |
| • White (not Hispanic) | 700 |
| • Chinese | 201 |
| • Japanese | 202 |
| • Korean | 203 |
| • Vietnamese | 204 |
| • Asian Indian | 205 |
| • Laotian | 206 |
| • Cambodian | 207 |
| • Other Asian | 299 |
| • Hawaiian | 301 |
| • Guamanian | 302 |
| • Samoan | 303 |
| • Tahitian | 304 |
| • Other Pacific Islander | 399 |
- Districts will show if a student was counted in the school's October 2002 CBEDS enrollment.
- The Primary Disability code from the IEP should be coded for each student receiving special education services.
- For English learners (immigrant students), enter the spring of the school year the student first enrolled in school in the United States.
- For students redesignated Fluent English Proficient, enter the spring of the school year the student was redesignated.

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Ordering 2003 Testing Materials

ETS has e-mailed and mailed packets for ordering the 2003 STAR materials to all districts. Orders are due to ETS no later than November 12, 2002.

New STAR Web site Available

Information about the 2003 STAR Program for district STAR coordinators will be posted at www.startest.org, the new Web site sponsored by the CDE and maintained by ETS.

Governor's Scholars Program

Districts are scheduled to receive the 2002 Qualifying Score Notices, student letters, lists of eligible students, and CD-ROMS with the student lists during December. Students eligible for awards through this program will be identified automatically. There is no application process for the awards through the STAR Program. High school counselors and other staff members should help students who receive Qualifying Score Notices claim their awards. Accounts are established for the students as soon as they claim their awards, and they may use the funds in their accounts for any post secondary expenses including technical schools and vocational training in addition to college or university expenses until they are 30 years old.

To be eligible for 2003 awards, students now will be required to have scores for the California English-Language Arts CST, a math CST for Algebra I or higher, and CAT/6 reading and math scores. A combined CST English-Language Arts and mathematics score will be used to identify students eligible to receive the \$1,000 scholarship.

Integration of CSTs and Golden State Exams (GSEs)

Beginning in 2003, the Golden State Examinations (GSEs) will be linked with the California English-Language Arts Standards Test in grade 11 and the High School Summative Mathematics Standards Test. In 2003, students wishing to take the Reading/Literature, Written Composition, or High School Mathematics GSEs will complete shorter exams than were previously given. Results from both the CST and GSE components will be combined to determine the GSE recognition, honors, and high honors designations. For example, the CST in English Language Arts in grade 11 will be combined with the Reading/Literature and Written Composition GSEs. The High School Summative Math CST will be combined with the High School Mathematics GSE. Provisions will be made for testing students in grade 12 who did not previously take these GSEs.

For more information about STAR or other state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 445-8765 (phone), at (916) 319-0969 (fax), at STAR@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), or at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests> (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.